

## 1. Connect

**Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.**

Share around your group which campus you got a chance to attend this past week, and how your experience was there. Did you have any conversations about getting engaged in our foster youth crisis here in Los Angeles County? Remember, there are currently more than 35,000 youth currently in the foster system. Are you thinking about becoming a safe family, an advocate and support for a safe family, or someone who organizes and gathers resources such as backpacks and other school supplies for foster youth?

## 2. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

Read Ephesians 2:4-10 together as a LifeGroup.

*4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

As you read this passage of Scripture, what stands out to you? Spend a couple of minutes making your own observations about the Scripture and share them together as a group.

### *Discussion*

This week at Fellowship we began our series entitled "Called For More." We saw that the salvation that God freely gives us in Christ comes with a purpose. We've been called to something. We've been called to a beautiful vision of faith, life, and good works. We've been called to a bigger vision of life than our typical definition of success.

### Huntington Drive Discussion Questions (Pastor Michael Lee)

- Ephesians 2:4-10 teaches us that salvation is the beginning of a new life in Christ, but with that new life comes a new calling before God—to do good works. How does that truth speak to you? Practically, what implication does that have for you at work, at home, in your community?
- When God saved us, God gave us an assignment to do good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). In a sense, salvation is the beginning, not the end. The good works that God calls us to do are rarely ever easy, convenient, or safe. To the contrary, it is often terrifying and filled with risks, like attempting to walk on water (see Matthew 14:22-33). Has Jesus ever called you to "walk on water?" If so, did you stay in the boat or attempt the impossible?
- Discuss the following quote from Pastor Michael's sermon. How might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to respond?: *"Taking a risk is risky, but playing it safe is riskier. Inaction is spiritually riskier because you rarely ever experience the power and presence of God in a controlled, calculated, and contained environment (i.e., the Comfort Zone). When you have no supernatural experiences of God, you get bored with Him. He seems puny and unreal. It stunts your spiritual growth. There is nothing safe about playing it safe."*

### Pasadena Campus Specific Questions (Pastor Michael Field)

- What are the versions of success that we see in culture today? List them out and talk about them together as a group.
- Now in your group, talk about what God's version of success looks like. Does God's version of success contrast with our cultural definitions of success? How?
- What lies about success do you need to let go of in order to grab on to God's version of success for your life?

### Monrovia Campus Specific Questions (Pastor Brandan Spencer)

- Do you have an identity that can handle success or failure? Talk about times in your life when you've failed, how did you handle those seasons? Likewise, talk about times in your life where you've enjoyed success. How did these seasons shape you?

- All work is meaningful. Was there ever a time in your life where if you're honest, you struggled to find meaning in your work? Are you currently in a season where thinking of your work as meaningful is difficult for you? What is it that makes all work meaningful?
- Where are places in your life where you are getting your identity, purpose, and fulfillment from the things you do?

### **3. Apply: Next Faithful Step**

As you think through Ephesians 2:4-10, much of it is about identity. This scripture shows us that our true identity is in Christ. That can be hard to believe some days, and on other days it can be even harder to practically live out on a daily basis. The great theologian Henri Nouwen once said that we often think of success in these three ways; "I am what I do. I am what I have. I am what others say about me." These however are false definitions. How does that resonate with you? What can you do to practically move away from these false identities, and into an identity rooted in Christ?

As we reflect on being called for more. What is your next faithful step? Is God calling you to take a risk and something new and different that will stretch you? Is God calling you to give away your time, talent or resources? Is God calling you to simply rest, and take a break?

### **4. Prayer**

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. Pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world.

*\*If anyone needs additional pastoral support or prayers regarding this sermon or any other aspect of our Next series, please don't hesitate to reach out to our pastoral staff. We would love to chat more deeply and pray with you.*